

OFFICE MEMO

TO: Bob Potter	DATE: November 21, 1996
Original signed by	SUBJECT: Delta Protection Commission Levee Concerns
FROM: Curt Schmutte	

This memo is in response to your request to brief you on the Delta levee issues raised by the Delta Protection Commission.

Margit Aramburu and Pat McCarty seem to be the only motivators pushing for no prioritization and PL-99 planning studies. They have continued to raise their concerns through several letters to CALFED and before the levee subcommittee. Specifically, they have continued to question whether CALFED should be talking about prioritization of islands for flood control versus treating all the Delta islands equally. Secondly, since last spring they have pushed to have more detailed levee surveys and levee rehabilitation costs to achieve PL-99.

I have repeatedly explained that the existing two-part structure in AB 360 and the proposed CALFED levee plan organization address the need to protect all Delta islands and at the same time, recognize that some islands have greater public benefits. This structure meets their concerns by guaranteeing that all Delta reclamation districts will have access to continued funding. No one besides Margit and Pat seem to have a problem with this structure. To address the second point, data which exists from SB 34 funded projects have given us a very reasonable estimate of costs and material quantities that are more than adequate for the CALFED Phase II analysis.

I have explained the prioritization issue in detail at six CALFED levee technical team meetings, at a DPC levee subcommittee meeting, and at the October BDAC meeting and during numerous phone conversations with Margit. In my phone conversation with Margit on 11/20/96, she seemed satisfied with my most recent explanation and would wait to see the outcome of our CALFED prioritization efforts. We plan to review our draft prioritization matrix at our upcoming Levee and Channel Technical Team meeting on December 10.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at 227-7567.

cc: Karl Winkler
Ray Hart
✓ Lester Snow